

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S E C R E T

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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT		
SUBJECT	Organization and Functions of a Hungarian Chemical Warfare Battalion	DATE DISTR.	86 JUN 1957	25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

report concerning the organization and functions of a Hungarian chemical-warfare battalion prior to the Hungarian insurrection in October/November 1956. The report gives the following information:

1. Designation of the battalion.
2. Subordination of the battalion.
3. Organization of a chemical-warfare battalion, including 11 charts with explanatory notes, designated as Appendices "A" through "I".
4. Soviet advisers at the "Hungarian People's Republic Chemical Defense Headquarters".
5. Construction of the battalion's barracks according to a Soviet plan.
6. Tactical use of smoke to screen offensive chemical-warfare operations.
7. "Defensive" role of the chemical-warfare battalion.
8. Absence of bacteria-warfare training in the battalions.
9. Atomic-warfare training handbooks.
10. Practice alerts of the battalion.
11. Storage of nerve gas in glass containers in Hungary.
12. Attachment of troops to the battalion for training, with a resulting fluctuation in the unit strength.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC						
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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[redacted] organisation and functions of Hungarian
CW unit, [redacted]

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DESIGNATION

1. [redacted] the unit [redacted] was called "Technical Unit",
but [redacted] documents addressing the unit as "Chemical and Atomic
Defence Battalion".

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25X1SUBORDINATION

2. [redacted] Bn HQ, [redacted]
[redacted] always dealt with "4 DIVISION HQ". The arrival of
op orders/instrs usually coincided with an order for the Chemical Officer to
call at 4 Div HQ. [redacted] the superior HQ was "4 Div" not
"4 ARMY".

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DETAILED ORGANISATION OF CW/AW BN

3. Tables showing the organisation of the Bn are attached as follows:-

Appx	'A'	-	Summary
	'B'	-	Bn HQ
	'C'	-	HQ Coy
	'D'	-	CW/AW Recce [redacted]
	'E'	-	Trg [redacted]
	'F'	-	Smk [redacted]
	'G'	-	Offensive CW [redacted]
	'H'	-	Med Coy and Med Recce [redacted]
	'J'	-	Weapon Decontamination [redacted]
	'K'	-	Personnel Decontamination [redacted]
	'L'	-	Salvage Coy

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4. Relevant notes are given at the foot of each appendix.

MISCELLANY

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6. AW Warning System

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7. Soviet Advisors

[redacted] there were Soviet advisors at the "Hungarian Peoples
Republic Chemical Defence HQ".

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8. Barracks

[redacted] the barracks in which [redacted] battalion was housed were
built according to a Soviet plan.

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25X19. Use of Smoke

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[redacted] why [redacted] battalion had a smoke company, [redacted] an
example of employment that a large 'misleading' smoke screen would be laid in
one place, whilst a smaller smoke screen elsewhere would be used to screen
offensive CW action

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10. Role of CW/AW Bn.

[REDACTED]

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Soldiers were told that the battalion was 'defensive',"but as you can see from the organisation, the unit is designed for both offensive and defensive action"

11. BW

[REDACTED]

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12. AW Training

[REDACTED] AW handbook [REDACTED] handbook was a translation from the Russian. [REDACTED]

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13. Practice Alerts

[REDACTED] the battalion had several practice 'alerts', when they had to load and be out of barracks in 2 hours.

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14. CW Attack from the Air

[REDACTED] glass containers of nerve gas for air dropping were planned. [REDACTED] there were stocks of these in Hungary.

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15. Strength of his Unit

[REDACTED] the strength of his unit was liable to fluctuate owing to large numbers being attached for training. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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SUMMARY OF

Appendix 'A'

Bn HQ

16 Officers
2 AVH Officers
5 NCOs
Clerks
Storemen

HQ	CW/AW RECCE	TRG	SMK pl	Offensive CW Pl
Housekeeping Pl	MT Pl	SIGS Sec	Wksp Pl	8 officers 18 NCOs 126 ptes
Shoemakers	90 ptes	1 Offr	Fitters	21 APCs
Tailors		1 NCO	Electricians	
Cooks	90 Trucks	15 CR		
Motile Kitchens			2 Large repair vehicles	
			(No str; Reformed annually for peacetime courses)	
			1 Officer 3 NCO 27 Ptes	4 Officers 36 CRs
			1 APC 3 Tankers 3 Trucks	?10 Cistern 1 APC

SALVAGE

ARMS DECONTAM

PERSONNEL DECONTAM

MED

MED RECCE pl

4 Officers
8 NCOs
60 CRs

5 Officers
?60 CRs

3 Officers
3 NCO
48 Ptes

3 Officers
Clerks
Orderlies
Dispensers
Male Nurses

2 Officers
3 NCOs
24 Ptes

1 APC
18 Special
vehicles

1 APC
10-15 Cistern
36 Trucks

1 Ambulance
3 Trucks
1 APC

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BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Appendix 'B'

CO
Deputy Comd for Political Affairs
Training Officer
Admin Officer HQ [] Comd

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Ops Office	Chemical Office	Tech Office	[] Office	Counter-Int Office	Secret Document Office	Propaganda Office	Signal Office
3 Officers Clerks	2 Officers	2 Officers	1 Officer	1 AVH Officer	1 Officer } 1 Clerk } AVH	1 Officer	

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Supply Office	Special Vehs Office	General Office	Record Office
1 Officer 3 Senior NCOs	2 Officers	1 Officer 1 NCO 1 Clerk	1 NCO

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NOTES

APPENDIX 'B'

[redacted] details of duties of certain offices as follows:-

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OFFICE		DUTIES
Ops	-	Issue of maps.
Technical	-	Provision and holding of MT spares. Ran POL.
Mcb	-	Mcb stores of:- ammo - chemicals - rations - etc; Mot fuel stock of 30,000 [redacted]
Secret Docs	-	Kept all classified documents and regs. Held political dossiers and service records of officers.
Propaganda	-	Lectures, posters, pamphlets, pep talks and cultural activities. All with a political slant.
Special Vehs	-	1 officer for maint, one for personnel. Held all veh docs.
Record Office	-	GRs personal records. Eqpt records.

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HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Appendix 'C'

OC
1 APC

HQ Pl	Housekeeping	MT Pl (1)	WKSF Pl	Sigs Pl (2)
Clerks	Shoemakers	90? Drivers	Fitters	1 Officer
Orderlies	Tailors	90? Vehicles	Electricians	1 Senior NCO
	Cooks			15 Ptes
	Storemen		2 Large mobile repair vehs	2 Special vehs
	Mobile			
	Kitchens		? Recovery veh	

NOTES

GENERAL

- (1) [redacted] "about 50" of these drivers and vehs provided Bn HQ and HQ [redacted] tpt. The remaining "about 40" vehicles were decentralised to [redacted] as load-carriers.
- (2) The Sig office in Bn HQ is controlled by the Sig sec OC. The section has one wireless veh with R20/R50 sets, also 15X "manpack" sets. The second veh is a generator for charging and camp lighting. The section maintains wrls and line comms within the bn in an area [redacted]

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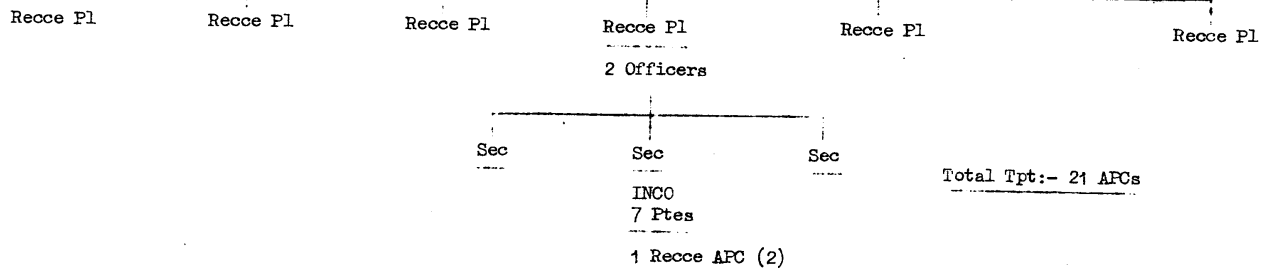
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CW/AW RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY

Appendix 'D'

CC
Deputy for Political Affairs
2 NCOs (1)
1 Clerk

HQ Tpt = 3 APCs



NOTES

- (1) NCOs were in charge of "chemical agents and clothing".
- (2) Formerly the sec veh was a 4 x 4 truck, but [] received Soviet APCs in August, 1956. The APCs were fitted with compartments for radiac instruments and armed with one 7.62mm LMG.
- (3) Although ORs were armed with "machine pistols", [] when carrying out recce of a contaminated area they expected protection from infantry/mech tps.

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TRAINING COMPANY

Appendix 'E'

[redacted] it was established on 15th January, 1956, and was only kept in being from January to October of each year. During this period it ran courses for all branches of the service, and was responsible for training CW [redacted] instructors for outside units. It also ran courses within the bn.

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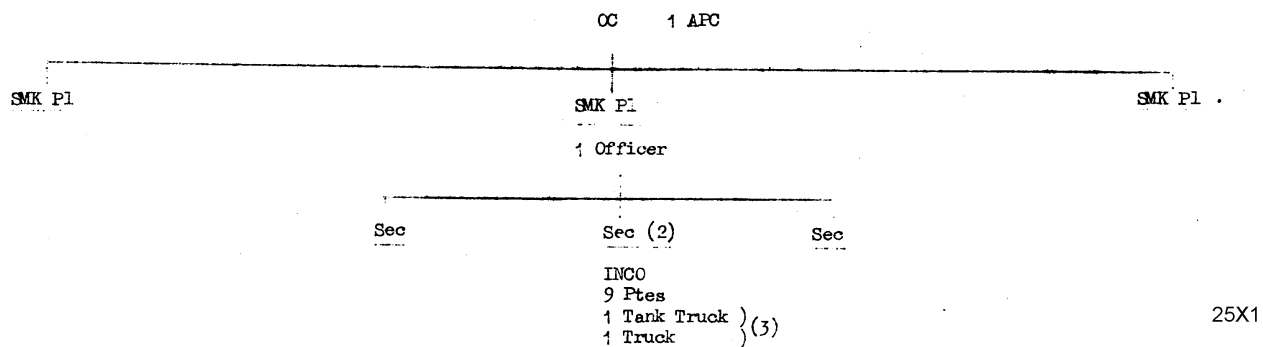
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SMOKE COMPANY (1)

Appendix 'F'



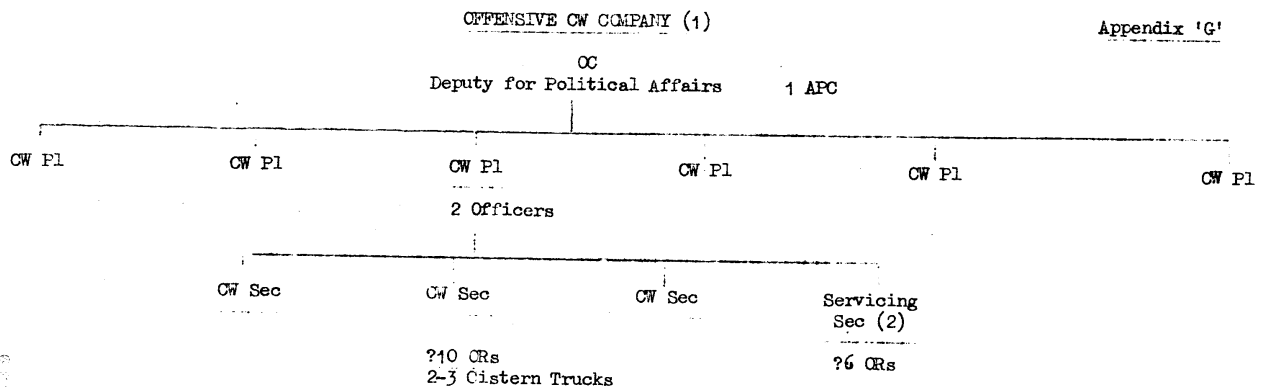
NOTES

- (1) Pl only in peace
- (2) In exercises, each sec formed three "smoke parties", one pl could therefore provide 9 points of origin for smoke
- (3) The tank [] carried "smoke fuel", the truck carried three smoke generators, stores and supplies.

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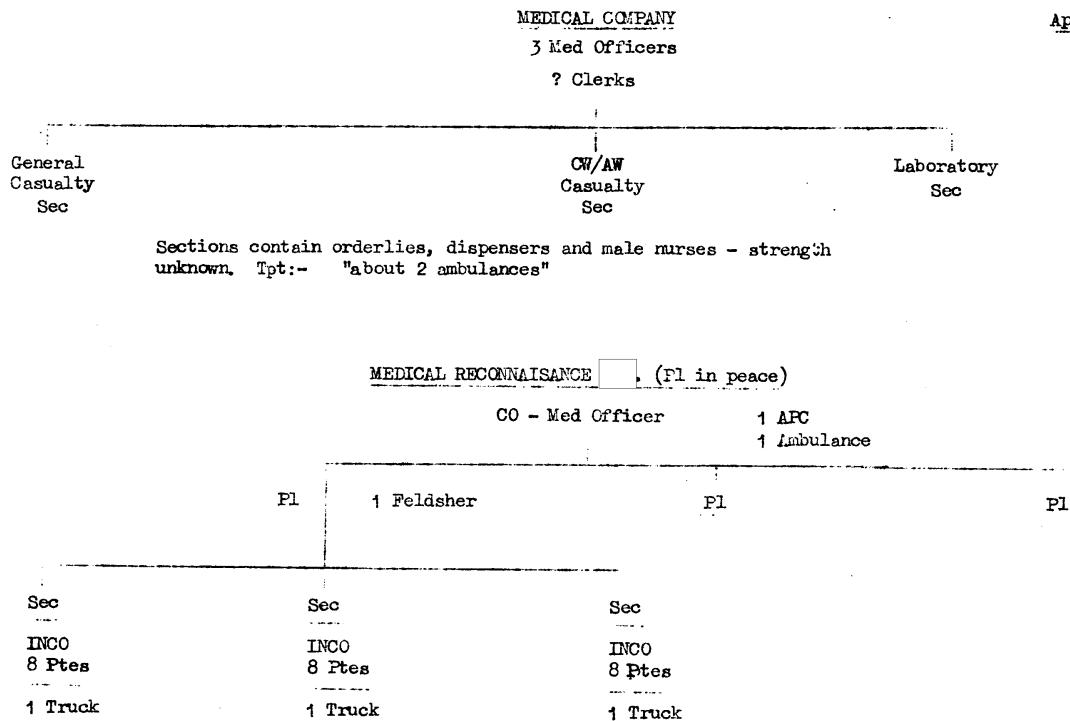
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Appendix 'G'

NOTES

- (1) This [] which was formed in January, 1956, was kept at pl strength in peace. [] it would expand to six pls in war. The literal translation of the name is "Contaminating Chemical Warfare []"
- (2) For special vehicles.
- (3) [] one of the tasks of this coy was to lay chemical minefields.
- (4) [] the methods used by the CW pl to contaminate ground as follows:-
 - (a) By spraying from the cistern []
 - (b) Spraying from drums which are under pressure and incorporate a spraying device
 - (c) A "primitive" way of discharging drums []



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WEAPON DECONTAMINATION COMPANY

Appendix 'J'

OC
Deputy for Political Affairs
Officer i/c eqpt and instruments

Pl
1 Officer

Pl

Reinforcement
Sec

Small Arms
Cleaning
Sec

Tank
Cleaning
Sec

? 10 CR

? 24 CR

? 24 CR

Cistern
Trucks

6 Trucks
(ADM 750)
2 Stores Trucks

? 6 x 3000
Cistern
2 Stores Trucks

NOTES

explanatory points:-

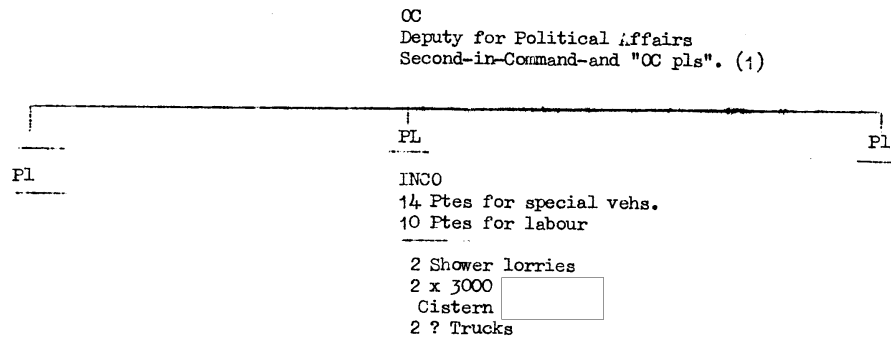
1. For every 2-4 special vehicles, there is a store
2. The Reinforcement Sec in each pl does not specialise, but can add to the resources of whichever sec is hard pressed.
3. The SA cleaning sec decontaminates mortars and RL, and the cleaning vehs are specially fitted.
4. The tank cleaning sec deals with arty, and all "large surfaces". The cistern
5. The comes into action in 15 mins. The organisation is very flexible and the whole can switch to decontamination of either large or small weapons with ease.

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PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION COMPANY

Appendix 'K'



NOTES

- (1) This officer sites the decontamination station, decides on the water supply, is responsible for detailed layout, and marshalling of users.
- (2) The carries its own tentage, and can establish a decontamination point with water at a temperature of 40° C in 30 mins.

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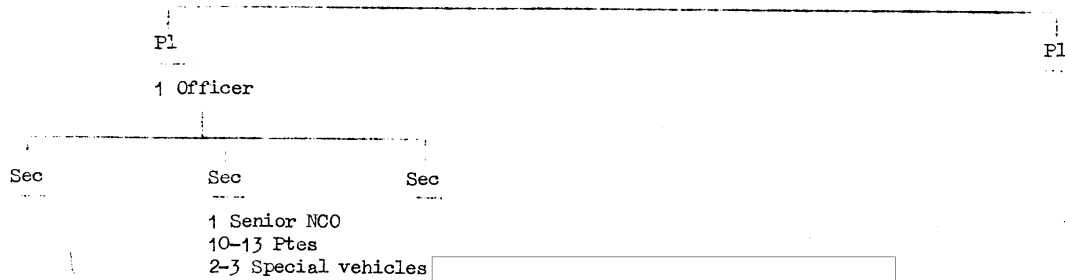
SALVAGE COMPANY

Appendix 'L'

OC
Deputy for Political Affairs
2 Senior NCOs

1 APC
4-5 Cistern

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NOTES

The company is designed to clean chemical and atomic contaminants from outer and inner clothing, rubber suits, boots, bedding etc. It supplies cleaned articles to the Personnel Decontamination Company.

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